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Message Text

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47
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
---------- 050156
R 291246Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8216
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18450

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, UR
SUBJECT: JEWISH DEMONSTRATION, DEC 24; THE NON-PARTICIPANTS

REF: MOSCOW 18413

1. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM SEVERAL MEMBERS OF MOSCOW'S JEWISH COMMUNITY, PREVENTED FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE DEMONSTRATION REPORTED REFTEL, WHY THEY DID NOT SHOW UP. TWELVE MUSCOVITE JEWS WHO HAD PLANNED TO TAKE PART IN THE DEMONSTRATION WERE UNABLE TO DO SO. IN MOST CASES, POLICE CARS WERE WAITING FOR THE WOULD-BE DEMONSTRATORS IN FRONT OF THE ENTRANCES TO THEIR APARTMENT HOUSES. TAKEN TO THE POLICE STATION, THE DISSIDENTS WERE EITHER SIMPLY MADE TO SIT FOR TWO HOURS, OR, IN THE MAJORITY OF CASES, THEY WERE INTERROGATED FOR TWO HOURS ON MATTERS UNRELATED TO THE DEMONSTRATION AND THEN RELEASED. IN TWO CASES, THE POLICE CAME TO THE DOOR OF THE APARTMENT AND THREATENED DIRE CONSEQUENCES FOR ANYONE LEAVING THE FLAT DURING A SPECIFIED INTERVAL.

2. IN ADDITION TO THE MOSCOW JEWS NOT ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE, AT LEAST FIVE CASES ARE KNOWN TO THE ORGANIZERS OF JEWS WHO HAD PLANNED TO COME FROM MINSK AND KIEV AND WERE DETAINED AT THE TRAIN STATION OR AIRPORT. THERE HAVE THUS FAR BEEN NO REPRISALS AGAINST THOSE JEWS WHO TOOK PART IN THE DEMONSTRATION, NOR, FOR THAT MATTER, AGAINST THOSE WHO WERE UNABLE TO DO SO. THE PARTICIPANTS
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PUT THE LACK OF REPRISALS DOWN TO THE FACT THAT

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THE DEMONSTRATION WAS A SILENT ONE AND ESPECIALLY THAT
NO PLACARDS WERE DISPLAYED.

3. OPINION IS DIVIDED AS TO THE SUCCESS OF THE DEMON-
STRATION. MANY MUSCOVITE JEWS, INCLUDING SEVERAL OF
THE DEMONSTRATORS, FEEL THAT THE HEAVY SECURITY WITH
WHICH THEY SURROUNDED THEIR PLANS PROVED TO HAVE BEEN
COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, SINCE THERE WERE ONLY FOUR WESTERN
CORRESPONDENTS PRESENT AT THE DEMONSTRATION, AND, MORE-
OVER, MANY JEWS WHO HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO DEMONSTRATE
SIMPLY NEVER "GOT THE WORD." BESIDES, AS ONE PARTICIPANT
PUT IT, "THE KGB KNEW ABOUT IT ANYWAY, SO TO WHAT END
IS IT USEFUL TO KEEP EVERYONE ELSE UNINFORMED?"

4. WHILE NONE OF OUR SOURCES WAS PREPARED TO CALL THE
DEMONSTRATION A FAILURE, THERE WAS A GOOD DEAL MORE
SELF-QUESTIONING AS TO ITS UTILITY THAN WE HAVE SEEN IN
THE PAST. THERE WAS CLEAR DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE
DEMONSTRATION DID NOT ENGENDER MORE REPORTING IN THE
WESTERN PRESS, WAS SO SPARSELY ATTENDED BY LOCAL JEWS,
AND CAUSED SO LITTLE STIR AMONG THE PASSERSBY.
SOME FELT THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE DEMONSTRATION--RECALLING
THE LENINGRAD TRIALS--WAS ONE UNLIKELY TO EVOKE MUCH
RESPONSE IN THE WEST. MATLOCK

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